

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

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USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 1380

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, MILI, NATO, AWACS

SUBJ: PREFINANCING NATO AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING (SEW)

REF: STATE 81196

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFERENCE MESSAGE THE DEFENSE ATTACHE HAD AN EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION WITH ADM CRUTCHLOW CONCERNING CANADA'S POSITION ON NATO AWACS ON 7 APRIL 1976. CRUTCHLOW ADVISED THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN CANADA'S POSITION ON NATO AWACS. THE CANADIAN POSITION IS BASICLY NOT DISPOSED TO PLEDGING ANY FUNDS AT THIS TIME FOR THE INTERIM FINANCING OF THE NATO AEW PROGRAM. CRUTCHLOW INDICATED THERE ARE A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS CONCERNING CANADA'S PARTICIPATION IN NORAD AWACS THAT MUST BE ANSWERED BEFORE A CANADIAN POSITION ON NATO AWACS CAN BE DETERMINED. HE FULLY UNDERSTANDS ITS IMPORTANCE; HOWEVER, UNTIL CANADA'S QUESTIONS ON A NORAD AWACS PROGRAM ARE ANSWERED HE FEELS DND CANNOT PLEDGE ANY FUNDING. IN ADDITION, HE FURTHER EMPHASIZED THAT DECISIONS ON ANY FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS BY DND WILL ABSOLUTELY BE DELAYED UNTIL AFTER THE LOCKHEED LRPA PROBLEM IS COMPLETELY RESOLVED.

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2. CRUTCHLOW'S RESPONSE WAS COMPLETELY NEGATIVE TO DATT'S SUGGESTION OF A POSSIBLE VISIT BY DEPSEC ELLSWORTH AND DASD SHIELDS IN THE LATTER PART OF APRIL TO RESOLVE THEIR QUESTIONS. HE INDICATED THAT THE ONLY INITIATIVE POSSIBLE IN SECURING SUPPORT ON ANY OF THE AWACS PROGRAMS IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE LOW PROFILE. CRUTCHLOW SAID HE WOULD BE GIVEN ADDITIONAL DIRECTION AT A DEFENSE COMMITTEE MEETING ON 12 APRIL AND WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH DATT ON 13 OR 14 APRIL TO FURTHER DISCUSS CANADA'S POSITION ON NATO AWACS. RESULTS OF THE MEETING WILL BE FORWARDED. ENDERS

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